

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in the application. Claim 1-36 stand rejected.

Claims 1-36 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention.

Improper multiple dependent claims have been removed.

Claim 37 has been newly added. This claim is supported by the specification.

No new matter is entered.

The present application claims foreign priority from Japanese application 2000-105186 filed April 6, 2000. A certified copy was submitted concurrently with the filing of the present application.

It is respectfully requested priority and receipt of the documents be acknowledged.

Applicant's claimed invention recites a relay apparatus which controls the forwarding address of a service request packet based on the current source address.

Claims 1-36 are rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al. (6,598,071) (Hayashi) in view of Sreenan (5,742,772). Claims 1, 3, 34-36 are independent claims pending in the application.

Hayashi teach a communication system which dynamically moves servers without rerouting or bypassing paths on which traffic is concentrated. Its agreed that Hayashi does not disclose a relay apparatus for judging whether the service request packet should be transmitted to the service control apparatus which controls its own setting of service based on the current source address as claimed by applicant.

The Office Action, however, refers to a bridge service and a resource manager described in Sreenan as having the same functions as a relay apparatus of the present invention.

Conventionally, a relay apparatus performs a communication process for the service control apparatus by using a dedicated communication path to receive an instruction of permission or no permission to perform services from the service control apparatus.

However applicant's claim 1 and 3 recites a relay apparatus which receives an instruction of permission or no permission to perform services from the service control apparatus by transmission of a service request packet, which has been transmitted from the source communication terminal, to the service control apparatus.

It is respectfully submitted that Sreenan in combination with Hayashi fail to describe at least this feature of applicant's claimed invention.

In particular as agreed in the office action Hayashi does not disclose this feature and in addition it is respectfully submitted Sreenan also does not disclose nor suggests the configuration wherein the relay apparatus controls the forwarding address of the service request packet based on the current source address.

Further, claims 34-36 are also non-obvious over Sreenan for at least the foregoing reasons as pointed out above with respect to claims 1 and 3.

With regard to new claim 37 a service control apparatus, which has received a service request packet from a single relay apparatus, issues permission to a plurality of relay apparatuses within the domain of the service control apparatus itself.

In a conventional relay apparatus communications is performed with a service control apparatus per each relay apparatus. Then, each relay apparatus receives permission for execution of a service from the service control apparatus by individually inquiring whether or not to execute the service.

In contrast in applicant's claim 37 the service control apparatus issues permission to a plurality of relay apparatuses within the domain of the service control apparatus itself when a service request packet is received from a single relay apparatus.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the references cited discloses or suggests this operation of the service control apparatus.

CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

Please charge the amount of \$18.00 for one extra claim to Deposit Account 50-1290.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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